

During the Halloween weekend, Macey completed her Eagle Scout community service project, where she built four benches along the 1.75-mile Centerville Pedway in Tallahassee.

She will join the first wave of young women to achieve the highest scouting rank.

These students are making great strides towards bright futures.

I commend them for taking on this challenge and for giving back to their communities.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JUDGE MARTHA WALSH HOOD

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Judge Martha Walsh Hood, who has been a New York Family Court Judge in Onondaga County for 20 years. Judge Walsh Hood has been a dedicated public servant and a strong advocate for Central New York families throughout her career, and I am honored to know her.

After graduating from Syracuse University College of Law in 1979, Judge Walsh Hood began a long and respectable career as a lawyer. In 2000, Judge Walsh Hood was appointed as a Family Court Judge for New York's fifth judicial district and was subsequently designated as an acting State Supreme Court Justice. Additionally, she was the Presiding Justice of the Onondaga Integrated Domestic Violence Court, which she helped found, until June of 2005.

Throughout her career, Judge Walsh Hood has displayed a strong commitment to preserving the integrity of the law and advocating for the children and families of Central New York. She has repeatedly demonstrated the strength of her character through her fairness, unmatched work ethic, and her dedication to public service. During her time at the New York Family Court, she helped create and organize the annual National Adoption Day celebration in Central New York. Each year on National Adoption Day, judges from courts around Central New York volunteer to finalize numerous adoptions and celebrate their new families while raising awareness of the thousands of children in foster care. Judge Walsh Hood generously volunteers each year to organize this important event as a demonstration of her commitment to Central New York families.

Outside of her career, Judge Walsh Hood is a dedicated wife to her husband, Paul, and a loving mother to her two children.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Martha Walsh Hood. A dedicated public servant, I wish Judge Walsh Hood the best in her retirement.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF HON. JUDGE ERNESTINE S. GRAY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the retirement of the Honorable Judge

Ernestine S. Gray who served as a judge in the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court in New Orleans for over 35 years.

A native of South Carolina, Judge Ernestine S. Gray was educated in Orangeburg before graduating from Spelman College in 1971 and Louisiana State University Law Center in 1976. Prior to her election to the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Judge Gray was involved in private practice. During her career in public service she worked in the Louisiana Attorney General's office focusing on antitrust law issues and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) as a trial attorney.

From the beginning of her career, Judge Gray has dedicated herself to the juvenile justice system. She demonstrated that commitment through her work at the Baton Rouge Legal Aid Society where she presided over several family law cases. Judge Gray also held various president level positions at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, National CASA, and the local YWCA amongst others. Currently, she serves as the president of the Pelican Center for Children and Families.

A highly respected public servant, and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Judge Gray is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2018 American Bar Foundation Outstanding Service Award, the 2013 City Business Leadership in Law Award, the 2011 Louisiana Association of Black Woman Attorney's Trailblazer Award, the 2008 Honorary Membership for the Louisiana Chapter of the Order of the Coif, the 2004 recipient of Spirit of Crazy Horse Award Reclaiming Youth International, the 2002 Albert Elias Award for Advancement of Compassionate Care of Troubled Youth, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency Prevention, and the 1995 American Bar Association Franklin D. Flaschner Judicial Award.

Judge Gray had an extraordinary judicial career and truly made a substantial impact on the lives of children and families in New Orleans. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Judge Gray, but surely we can try to match her sense of service. We cannot match her courage, but we can strive to match her devotion.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the retirement of the Honorable Judge Ernestine S. Gray.

RECOGNIZING NOLAN MEJIA AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize local Carlsbad teen, Nolan Mejia, as my December Constituent of the Month. As the COVID-19 pandemic spread in our communities, 17-year-old Nolan saw an opportunity to ease the struggles of his neighbors and friends. After witnessing his own grandparents have nearby family members do their grocery shopping, he worried for those that did not have anyone to do the same for them.

Feeling inspired by his own family's kindness, Mejia started the Grocery Grab service. Run by himself and a few of his classmates from Sage Creek High School in Carlsbad, the

free grocery shopping service is designed to accommodate those who are immunocompromised and advised to stay at home to prevent exposure to COVID-19. So far, the group has delivered over 7,000 items to various seniors in the community, with any tips received for their services donated to the San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

While the pandemic continues to impact our communities in North County San Diego and South Orange County, it is absolutely vital that we embrace teamwork and togetherness. I am incredibly encouraged by the enthusiasm and charity of Nolan and his Grocery Grab staff for rising to the moment on the behalf of those CA-49 residents in need. In order to get through this unprecedented time, it's important that we support our most vulnerable neighbors. I am deeply grateful for Nolan's service to our District, and I am proud to recognize him as my Constituent of the Month.

IN HONOR OF ROD EDMINSTON

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rod Edminston of Blair County, Pennsylvania for his service to Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District on the 2020 U.S. Service Academy Nomination Committee.

Nominating exceptional candidates to attend our nation's service academies is one of my most important responsibilities in Congress. During this process, I rely on members of the Service Academy Nomination Committee, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers who have served our nation with distinction.

Rod is one of nine academy alumni who graciously volunteered their time to meet with and evaluate perspective nominees for the Class of 2025. As a graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, Rod knows firsthand the qualities and dedication that are critical for succeeding at the academies. He provided wise counsel and expertise throughout the nominating process, and I am grateful for his time and commitment.

Rod Edminston is an outstanding Pennsylvanian and American, as well as an excellent role model for future academy students. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, it is my honor to recognize Rod for his service to our community and our nation.

IN HONOR OF REP. GREG WALDEN

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of our home state of Oregon to honor my friend, colleague, and fellow Oregon Duck, GREG WALDEN, for his twenty-two years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman WALDEN's call to service did not start in this chamber—and it will not end here. GREG WALDEN and I share similar paths. We both attended the University of Oregon School of

Journalism, and we both began our careers in elected office in the Oregon State Legislature. We both started in the Oregon House, we were both appointed to the Oregon Senate, and we both served in leadership there before joining Congress.

Congressman WALDEN was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1999, and his ascent in Congress, in both leadership positions in his party and on some of our most powerful committees, brought central, eastern, and southern Oregon to the table during the most pressing policy debates of the past two decades. Although Congressman WALDEN and I didn't agree on every vote, we worked together to find areas of common ground that helped Oregonians by advancing good policies. I am grateful for his most recent work to bring more resources to those with opioid addiction, and for our work together on wildfire relief. In this time of great division, I greatly admire Congressman WALDEN's lifelong commitment to serving with integrity, honesty, and humility. He puts pen to paper and does the hard work that's needed to serve his constituents and move our country forward. When I first joined the Oregon delegation, he welcomed me with kind words on the House floor and then invited me to the House dining room for lunch, a gesture that meant a lot to me as a new member of Congress. I will miss our chance to catch up on long flights to and from Oregon, and I'll certainly miss having a fellow Duck in the delegation.

I offer my congratulations to Congressman WALDEN, as he closes this chapter of his career dedicated to helping others, and I know he will continue serving his community and Oregonians in new ways in the years ahead. Best wishes to him and his family.

HONORING MARY MORIARTY

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Moriarty, who embodies what it means to be a public defender. For 30 years, Ms. Moriarty has dedicated herself to the Hennepin County Chief Public Defender's Office. Her tireless commitment to our community, providing quality representation to our most marginalized and vulnerable neighbors should not go unappreciated.

Ms. Moriarty was appointed Chief Public Defender in 2014. Her leadership resulted in significant reforms, providing ample and often training to new lawyers, bringing in social workers for misdemeanor cases, and requiring lawyers to have knowledge in forensic science and DNA analysis.

An evaluation from the National Center for State Courts Public Defender's Office under Ms. Moriarty's leadership validated that she runs one of the best public defender offices in the country, one that is as successful as a private firm. Dr. Brian Ostrom stated this: "let me say unequivocally that Ms. Moriarty is the most accomplished, passionate, and articulate public defender I have ever met."

In her tenure Ms. Moriarty has been a devoted champion in addressing the racial inequalities in the justice system: whether that be advocating for more awareness of implicit

bias for jurors, or requesting data that shows police disproportionately stop and charge African American's with obstruction of justice, compared to Caucasians. Ms. Moriarty has first-hand seen the disparities that impact our community through the legal system and has worked diligently to reform them.

To me, Ms. Moriarty represents what the standard should be for a public defender: someone who is committed to their clients and provides service to the highest of their ability, someone willing to call out the injustices and inequalities our neighbors endure, and working to reform them. Ms. Moriarty deserves the upmost admiration for continuing the good fight of improving our justice system, even in the face of considerable pushback.

I thank Chief Public Defender Mary Moriarty for her service to our community. It has been an honor to work alongside her to make our state, country and justice system a better, fairer place.

RECOGNIZING LIZ MCBRIDE

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our finest House servants, director of the Office of Employee Assistance, Liz McBride. Throughout her nearly thirty-year tenure with the office she has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of Members, their families, and the staff of the U.S. House—often meeting outside of normal business hours to ensure they received the support they needed. As Director of the office, Liz has gifted the House with a new vision—expanding confidential counseling and bringing a new focus to health with the establishment of the House Wellness Center. Throughout this pandemic, Liz and her office have played an essential role in helping Members and staff work through what has been for many a difficult year. Liz is leaving us with a bright vision for the future and a legacy worth emulating. Her retirement is a genuine loss for us and this institution, and I am grateful for her years of dedicated service to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF RANDY CLINTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Clinton, the President & CEO of the Community Enrichment Center, who will be retiring after 25 years of faithful leadership of the Tarrant County non-profit.

Mr. Clinton received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Abilene Christian University, where he demonstrated his leadership skills through his role as the ACU Band Drum Major. After graduation, he initially served as Director of Recruiting at Abilene Christian, before his career path took him to Granbury where he opened a restaurant, and then moved to the Dallas-Fort Worth area for a 13-year career in banking. His varied background

experience in the recruitment, business and finance fields provided him the skills that would prove necessary for the challenges he would eventually face with the Community Enrichment Center.

Established in 1988, Randy joined the organization already in existence, but brought his personal and business skills to effectively manage and expand the organization's original mission to serve Northeast Tarrant County's growing community needs. The area's expanding population brought an ever-increasing need for assistance from individuals and families facing homelessness or other forms of personal crisis. To address the challenge, Randy led the acquisition and sale of several properties through debt-free operation and management of 206 properties. This effort to assist struggling families also involved offering additional support services including the CEC's Food Pantry, GED completion classes and other programs to improve job opportunities and wages to move individuals out of poverty to self-sufficiency.

This mission expanded significantly with the merger of CEC with Open Arms Home, Inc., allowing an even greater ability for Randy and his team to aid families in transition. It also expanded the capacity of CEC to assist victims of domestic violence by providing them the time and space necessary to work through their challenges in a healthy and supportive environment. Funding these efforts without debt required not only efficient management skills, but also creative funding. CEC, through Randy's efforts, was successful in securing, and successfully managing, a number of federal grants including Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA), Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG), and HUD Homeless Housing grants. These grant funds, as well as other funding streams, supported the CEC's offerings to those in need, such as adult literacy programs and VITA Free Tax Preparation.

His service wasn't limited to his official duties at the CEC. Mr. Clinton served his fellow North Texans through participation in several area boards, including the Northeast Leadership Forum, Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce, the Northeast Richland Lions Club, the Joint Advisory Council for JPS Hospital and the United Way Northeast Steering Committee. He also shared his personal time and leadership skills as Board Chairman of the Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Homeless Network, Mid Cities Pacesetters Rotary, Tarrant County Continuum of Care for the Homeless, United Way Agency Partners and the Saginaw Area Chamber. He was also a founding member of Summer Santa and serves actively at The Hills Church of Christ as Elder and Class Leader.

Randy Clinton successfully bridged his personal faith and professional skills as a compassionate community steward, leading the CEC to offer practical resources, tools and encouragement to community members in need. Thanks to his committed engagement, families have found transitional resources to move from crisis to stability and break the cycles of poverty and family violence. Bringing hope to current, and future generations of North Texas residents, Randy has made an indelible mark through his service with Community Enrichment Center. On behalf of the 26th Congressional District, I wish him and his family the same success and fulfillment his efforts over